

Listing of Claims

Claims 8 – 14 deleted.

Claims 15 – 21 new.

Claims:

15.^(new) A method of constructing a thin film mirror, which method comprises:

- (i) providing a suction chamber with edges which lie on a surface of the thin film mirror being constructed;
- (ii) providing tensioning means which is forced into contact with a film which is for the thin film mirror being constructed, the tensioning means being positioned adjacent to and inwardly of at least one of the edges of the suction chamber such that tension in the film parallel to the edge is increased by the tensioning means moving the film in a direction into the suction chamber; and
- (iii) providing holding means for
 - (a) holding the tensioning means;
 - (b) locally adjusting holding pressure on the tensioning means; and
 - (c) feeding the tensioning means into position after the film has been attached to the suction chamber.

16.^(new) A method according to claim 15 in which the tensioning means is a rod.

17.^(new) A method according to claim 15 in which the rod is of circular cross section.

18.^(new) A method according to claim 17 in which the rod is a tube.

19.^(new) A method according to claim 18 in which the tube is a semi-rigid tube.

20.^(new) A method according to claim 15 in which the holding means has a first portion for extending over the tensioning means, and a second portion for extending under the suction chamber.

21.^(new) A thin film mirror produced by the method according to claim 15.